



MILTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL Number 11 10th December 2020

PARENT/CARER'S NEWSLETTER

Welcome to this week's roundup – and remember you can also keep up to date at

www.milton.cambs.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID Update

Winter Grant Scheme- LA Information

In November, the government announced funding for Local Authorities for the COVID Winter Grant Scheme. This grant is intended to provide a range of support to families over Christmas and February half term when schools will be closed and are not able to provide free school meals for those families who need additional support at this challenging time.

As a result, the LA are making two offers for families –

1. Direct Food Voucher Scheme

A supermarket voucher will be made available to parents or young people who meet the criteria for;

- Free School Meals (children and young people aged 4 to 16) - **please note this is not the universal free school meal provision**

A detailed list of criteria for parents eligible for Free School Meals (children and young people aged 4 to 16)

In order to qualify you must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

Income Support

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

The guaranteed element of Pension Credit

Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)

Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

If you wish to apply for a free school meal, please apply online at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals/

It is our intention to automatically issue each eligible child/young person with a £15 supermarket voucher for each week of the Christmas holidays. We will use information held by schools and the Local Authority to allocate the vouchers using a system called Wonde. They can be issued either by email or by text. Schools may be able to help you if you cannot access the vouchers by this route. Details of the supported supermarkets and how Wonde works can be found in the frequently asked question document sent with this letter by parent mail earlier in the week.

Please note that all vouchers issued in December will expire on 31 January 2021.

If you do not wish to receive a food voucher please let school know as soon as possible so that we can reallocate the voucher to someone else in need.

If you have not received your voucher by the 18th December and meet the criteria, please contact the COVID 19 Coordination Hub directly by emailing communitycv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or by phoning 0345 045 5219.

2. Accessing additional support for families

We understand that families who are eligible for the Direct Food Voucher Scheme may need further support. We also know there will be families who don't meet the above criteria but are in need of help. Therefore the network of coordination hubs run by the city and district councils will help you to access support, this may include:

Access to Food

Support with utilities e.g. help with bills or making your home more energy efficient

Household items relating to warmth, hygiene, and cooking

If you need additional support with any of these, please complete the simple online form below – www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/wintersupport

Once you have submitted the form, your local hub will be in touch to discuss what support is available and how it can best help. The hubs have been set up during this time to ensure that all residents of Cambridgeshire have access to the support that is available. If you are unable to complete the online form, please contact your school who, with your permission, can make a referral on your behalf. Alternatively, you can call your local hub on 0345 045 5219 and they can complete the form with you.

The welfare of our children and young people will always be our top priority. If you or your family needs support over the winter, please do not hesitate to reach out to us and we will do our best to help.

Please also note the *keep warm keep well*, and *self-isolating support* leaflet are attached.

Parents who may be applying for Reception places for siblings for next year.

The Parents' School Preference Adviser has made a You Tube video summary available on the County Council website which covers the main points parents need to be aware of when making an application for a Reception place for September 2021. This supplements the information on the Admissions Team page about applying for a primary school place. The deadline for submitting applications is 15 January 2021.

Here is a link to the website - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/support-with-choosing-a-school>

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) information www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/send

Here is a link to the You Tube video only
- <https://tinyurl.com/Applyingforprimaryschool2021>

Christmas Reminders



Christmas dates:

It has been such a treat hearing music and laughter in the building again as the talent shows have been taking place. I'm currently listening to a clarinet performance of some Christmas carols drifting down from the hall....

Christmas Parties

Please could we ask for a **50p donation** towards food that we will be providing. Children can come to school that day in **party clothes**.

Parties KS1:

Monday 14th December - Y1 Christmas Party
Tuesday 15th December - F Christmas Party
Wednesday 16th December - Y2 Christmas Party

Parties KS2:

Monday 14th December – Year 6 Christmas Party
Tuesday 15th December – Year 4 Christmas Party
Wednesday 16th December - Year 5 Christmas Party
Thursday 17th December – Year 3 Christmas Party

Christmas cards/gifts

This is more of a logistical issue this year due to COVID requirements. If the children would like to bring in Christmas cards for their year group only, they can bring them to school on **Friday 11th December** where they can be posted in their class post box. We will isolate them over the weekend so they can be handed out in the final week of term.

Reminder: Flu Vaccinations tomorrow 11th December 2020

Please also note that the last day of term is a non-uniform day as usual.

If anyone has an artificial Christmas tree or a nativity set that they are going to replace, we would be very grateful to receive it. I have had to recycle 2 very tired trees that I think could almost be classed as antiques!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Anna Reeder